Mental Patients

551. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mental patients in the country;

(b) whether the disease is coming down or increasing; and

(c) the percentage of population i.e. male, female, children suffering from such disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders. The number of persons with mental illness is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and over all increase in the rate of depression world wide.

(c) There is no definite evidence to suggest higher prevalence rates related to gender or age. But women and children are generally more vulnerable to psychosocial stress and catastrophic events like natural disasters, communal or ethnic strife, terrorism and war.

Spurious Drugs Trade

552. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bhagirath Palace in Delhi is considered to be the mecca of spurious drugs trade in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for the growth of this business and the details of the people indulging in this business which has ruined the lives of several thousand innocent persons; and

(c) the number of raids conducted by the enforcement staff to detect the network of spurious drugs dealers during the last 3 years in the area and the number of persons arrested in those cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The incidences of detection of spurious drugs during the last three years in respect of Bhagirath